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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Reformulated narrative of section 8, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 120 of the report on its forty-first session,[1] the Committee for Programme and Coordination requested the Secretary-General to realign the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of section 8, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003,[2] in conformity with the medium-term plan and to submit the revised section to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session. Furthermore, in paragraph 114 of that report, it was indicated that particular reference had been made in the Committee in that regard to subprogrammes 1 and 2 of the section in question.

2. Accordingly, the Secretariat has reviewed the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of section 8. Should the General Assembly decide to adopt the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, it may wish to consider revising the proposed narrative of that section as follows:

(a) In table 8.8, *replace* the entire text under the heading "Expected accomplishments" *with*:

"Provision of quality legal advice to the principal and subsidiary organs of the United Nations, leading to an increased understanding of international law, including the United Nations legal regime."

(b) In table 8.8, *replace* the entire text under the heading "Indicators of achievement" *with*:

"(a) Quantity, timeliness and accuracy of advice;

"(b) Number of instruments finalized;

"(c) Number and impact of opinions rendered on violations of international legal instruments for the conduct of United Nations operations."

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(c) In table 8.10 *replace* the entire text under the heading "Expected accomplishments" *with*:

"(a) Greater protection of the Organization's legal rights and minimization of its legal liabilities, through the provision of quality legal advice to the principal and subsidiary organs of the United Nations, leading to an increased understanding of the Organization's legal rights and obligations;

"(b) Provision of legal advice and support aimed at enabling offices, departments and subsidiary organs to maximize their compliance with regulations, rules and administrative issuances consistent with the Organization's policies and purposes."

(d) In table 8.10, *replace* the entire text under the heading "Indicators of achievement" *with*:

"(a) Quality, accuracy and timeliness of legal advice and support;

"(b) Number and impact of legal opinions and other legal advice such that the United Nations offices are in a better position to interpret and apply provisions of the United Nations legal regime to specific cases and to comply with such provisions."

(e) In table 8.12, in the second column, under the heading, "Indicators of achievement", *replace* paragraph (a) *with*:

"(a) Increase in the number of new legal instruments emanating from the process of codification and satisfaction expressed by Member States with the quality, volume and timeliness of the documentation prepared by the Codification Division."

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/56/16).

[2] A/56/6 (Sect. 8).